

## 1999 NATIONAL EMISSIONS INVENTORY DRAFT VERSION 3 FOR CRITERIA POLLUTANTS

A new draft of an update to the 1999 National Emissions Inventory (NEI) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now available on-line.

For general information on the NEI, go to <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/eidocs/nei.html> on the CHIEF web site.

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### WHAT KIND OF EMISSION INVENTORY DATA IS EPA RELEASING AT THIS TIME?

EPA is releasing a draft emission inventory for criteria air pollutants, plus ammonia, for the calendar year 1999. This draft inventory is called version 3 of the 1999 NEI for criteria air pollutants and is available online at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/index.html#1999>. Revisions are being solicited for the point and area sectors of the inventory only. Revisions for the point and area source sectors are due by May 1, 2003. The review period for the mobile sector (both criteria and hazardous air pollutants) is underway and closes March 31, 2003. This current draft of the 1999 NEI (draft version 3) does not include updates to mobile sources; they are the same as those included in final version 2 but are included in the county summary files for the reviewer's convenience. Keep reading for more details about submitting revisions for the point and area sector.

The format of the data in this draft Version 3 for criteria pollutants is the NEI (National Emission Inventory) input format (NIF), version 2.0, and this draft NEI contains 1999 inventory information received through June 1, 2002, from State and Local Agencies, Tribal Authorities, as well as other EPA offices. NIF is the standard electronic data format used to exchange emission inventory data in a compact form. Summaries of this data set are also available online. More information about interpreting the tables, variables, and codes used in the NIF can be found online at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/nif/index.html>.

Draft Version 3 for criteria pollutants is being released only for the purpose of getting review and corrections from state/local/tribal air management agencies or any other party with such information. Because it is a draft, EPA does not recommend its use in any official way. It is not suitable for informing the general public about the subject of air pollution, because it may still contain errors. When revisions and corrections have been incorporated, EPA will release a final version 3 of this inventory. Meanwhile, for most purposes requiring emission inventory data we suggest using final version 2 of the 1999 inventory, which is available at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/index.html#1999>.

Some of the states for which 1999 data was not available when version 2 for criteria pollutants was completed have since provided EPA with their data, and EPA has incorporated these data into this draft version 3 of the inventory. Among these for criteria pollutants are Arizona (Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community), Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Oregon (Umatilla tribe), and Tennessee for point sources, and Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Mississippi, Oregon, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Tennessee (Davidson county), Virginia, and

Vermont for area sources. Air agency staff and representatives of emission sources in these states should therefore pay attention to how we have incorporated these new data. Details on what EPA did to these submitted inventories for each state are found in the sector-specific documentation, available online at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/index.html#1999>.

## WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 1999 NEI DATA FILES?

An Informational README file is available online and contains information about the file type, file formats, state data files, summary data files, and documentation of the NEI. For information on each sector, be sure to read the sector documentation files.

## HOW WAS THIS INFORMATION DEVELOPED?

Documentation files for both sectors (point and area) are available online at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/index.html#1999>. In general, these inventories were developed with input from state and local agencies, tribal authorities, industry, as well as a number of EPA offices. If a state did not submit data and EPA itself could not estimate emissions from a source category, EPA typically used data from an earlier year and "grew" the emissions using economic indicators. The sector-specific documentation files referenced above provide more detail on the data used and how it was incorporated into the NEI.

## WHAT ARE THE KNOWN UNCERTAINTIES, ERRORS, AND OPEN ISSUES WITH THIS INFORMATION?

There are numerous uncertainties associated with these inventories. Here are some of the sources of uncertainty.

1. Emission data is of variable quality and in some cases has undocumented derivation. Many of the emission estimates were submitted by the sources of the emissions to state/local/tribal air agencies, and then to EPA, without full explanations of how the emissions were estimated.
2. Not all sources are accounted for. In some states, very small sources have been reported, while in others only the largest sources in certain types of industry are included.
3. Not all states have submitted data. For the states that did not submit a 1999 inventory, EPA "grew" the affected portions of the inventory from an earlier year, usually 1996. This would obviously omit sources that came online in the target year and erroneously include sources that have shut down. For more information on which states submitted data and for which states the inventory is "grown", refer to the documentation for the respective inventory sector (point or area). The documentation for each sector can be found online at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/net/index.html#1999>.
4. EPA has received some revisions and corrections on version 2 of the 1999 criteria inventory too recently for these to be reflected in this new draft version 3 for criteria pollutants. One revision

concerned wildfires in North Dakota, which will cause us to review the wildfire estimates more generally. In general, estimates of wildfire, prescribed burning, and agricultural burning in this inventory are uncertain especially where states have not submitted their own estimates.

5. For the residential fossil fuel combustion categories, we have replaced nearly all state-supplied estimates with new estimates created by an EIIP project using USDOE data on annual fuel consumption by state and Census Bureau housing data to allocate to the county level. EPA believes that these estimates are more accurate in many cases than the estimates in version 2, which were a mixture of old and new estimates created with various methods and emission factors. We encourage reviewers to pay attention to this category and its explanation in the documentation. More information on this can be found in the area source documentation, plus EPA is providing an electronic spreadsheet that contains the information EPA used to create the inventory.

6. There are other issues which EPA considers to still be open to revision whether or not revisions are received from others. For example, some estimates by EPA may still be reconsidered. The estimates for construction related soil dust emissions and for open burning of debris from land clearing for road and building construction may be reconsidered, especially for urban areas. Possibly, the final version 3 of the 1999 criteria emissions inventory will incorporate recent or forthcoming emission estimates by the Western Regional Air Partnership for wildfires, prescribed burning, agricultural burning, and unpaved road dust.

#### WHAT WILL EPA DO WITH THIS INFORMATION?

As a general example of some of the things the NEI could be used for, see section 2.0, page 5 of the "1999 National Emission Inventory Preparation Plan-Revised (February 2001)." This document is available online at <ftp://ftp.epa.gov/EmissionInventory/draftnei99ver3/>.

#### WHAT SHOULD STATE AIR AGENCIES AND OTHER NON-EPA ORGANIZATIONS DO WITH THE INFORMATION? WHAT SHOULD THEY NOT DO?

Agencies reviewing the Draft Version 3 for criteria pollutants of the 1999 NEI should look for completeness and accuracy. For each sector and for each state, EPA has flagged issues for review. For example, Section E of the point source documentation is entitled "Are There Specific Areas on Which EPA Wants State/Local/Tribal Agencies to Comment?". Also, Appendix A of the point source documentation file is entitled "Documentation of Changes Made to Individual State and Local Inventories". Reviewers should be sure that they read these sections.

Revisions are due to EPA by May 1, 2003. Remember that since the inventory is draft, it should not be used as the basis for important policies. See below for how to submit revisions.

## HOW CAN STATES AND OTHERS PROVIDE REVISIONS TO OR POINT OUT POSSIBLE ERRORS IN THIS INFORMATION?

Information on how to submit revisions to EPA can be found in the Appendix A to the NIF documentation , located online at [http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/nif/appa\\_0401.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/nif/appa_0401.pdf). If you have questions, please contact Roy Huntley by email at [Huntley.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Huntley.Roy@epa.gov), or by voice at (919) 541-1060.